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The Daily Gamecock, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2013

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Federal cuts’ effects at USC mostly unclear

Research, financial aid face reduced funding

Thad Moore
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It’s been nearly a month since sequestration went into effect, but USC still isn’t quite sure how it will be affected by the automatic federal budget cuts. The slate of across-the-board cuts established by the 2011 Budget Control Act are worth \$85 billion this year and went into effect March 1, and USC isn’t expecting them to go away. “(There is) no real hope, no great hope that sequestration will be solved imminently,” USC President Harris Pastides said. Now, weeks later, USC is starting to piece together how it will be felt throughout the university system, which receives hundreds of millions of federal dollars each year. But for the most part, officials say they still aren’t sure.

Research
In the near future, the biggest impact may be felt by researchers.

Vice President for Research Prakash Nagarkatti told trustees last week that USC expects to lose 8.4 percent, or \$12.08 million, of its federal research money this year. Federal agencies provided nearly 60 percent of the \$238.3 million of grants USC won in the 2012 fiscal year. Those cuts will come in different shapes from different agencies. The National Institutes of Health, USC’s second-largest research funding source, is cutting grants it’s already awarded by 7 to 8 percent, said Steven Beckham, USC’s director of federal relations. The National Science Foundation, the third-largest, is keeping grants intact but isn’t giving out any more. How the cuts will shape up should be more clear in the next few weeks, Nagarkatti said, but that money won’t be matched by USC. “We have made it clear that the university cannot pick up the research costs of the people who are doing externally funded research,” Provost Michael Amiridis said. Those are changes that could affect individual researchers more than USC at large. USC pays its faculty for nine months of the year and expects them to find grant funding to work over the summer. If they can’t — or if that money runs dry — Nagarkatti said it could effectively be a pay cut for researchers. Sandra Kelly, the chairwoman of faculty senate, knows that challenge well. When a five-year NIH grant she won after arriving at USC wasn’t renewed in time, she spent a summer struggling to make ends meet, she said. “It is also very demoralizing for faculty who have a passion for their research,” Kelly said. “It costs money to do research, and if they don’t have the money, they can’t do the research.” And, she said, funding cuts could force researchers to slim their laboratory staff, and once

CUTS ● 3



Photos by Brian Almond / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Same-sex marriage supporters gather at the Statehouse Tuesday as the Supreme Court hears arguments on the issue this week.

Hundreds march on Statehouse

LGBT rights groups rally for same-sex marriage Tuesday

Sarah Martin
NEWS@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

At the direction of Ryan Wilson, executive director of S.C. Equality, protesters stormed the stairs of the Statehouse Tuesday and claimed the building as their own. “This is our legislature too, y’all,” Wilson said. The protesters wore red and chanted in support of same-sex marriage at a critical time for the hot-button issue. This week, the U.S. Supreme Court is hearing arguments on two cases related to same-sex marriage. One is a challenge to Proposition 8, a 2008 California referendum that bans such marriages. The second contests the Defense of Marriage Act, a federal

Video available online DG

law passed in 1996 that defines marriage as a union between one man and one woman. Both laws were challenged at the rally, as protesters and speakers highlighted their opinions of what “equality” should mean in the American judicial system. “We cannot confuse fairness and equality, just as we cannot confuse tolerance with acceptance,” read a letter penned by Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott. “This talk of equality under the law has us looking a little closer. ... Regardless of the outcome, we must work together to not lose the progress we have already made.” That was a belief echoed by a group of clergy members, who expressed religious support of same-sex marriage. Representing the clergymen was Carl Evans, professor emeritus of religious studies at USC. A retired Methodist minister, Evans promoted unity and support among those of different religions.

“The time has come for all of God’s children to enjoy the same rights and privileges of marriage,” he said. “My apologies to Bob Dylan, but ‘How many years can some people exist before they’re allowed to be free?’” The sentiment was poignant for many in the crowd, including those personally affected by Proposition 8 and DOMA. “I’m passionate about this subject because I was raised by two moms,” said Laura Engel, a first-year criminal justice student. “They’ve been together for 15 years, and I don’t know why they can’t be married.” That question was repeated constantly during the rally, with protestors carrying banners that added some humor to the debate: “Liz Taylor had 8 marriages, my friends just want one” and “Defend Dumbledore’s Rights.” Representing USC’s chapter of

MARRIAGE ● 2

Banquet displays poverty, global disparity

There was something different about the banquet held in the Russell House Ballroom Tuesday. Some attendees sat on stacks of newspaper and ate rice with their hands, while others sat at tables with white tableclothes and ate a full meal of spaghetti, salad and sweet tea. The “hunger banquet,” part of USC’s second-annual “Food Justice Week,” saw participants divided into disparate socioeconomic classes, which aimed to reflect the reality of poverty throughout the world. Suzanne Hackett, director of Columbia transitional housing group Hannah House; returning Peace Corps participant Howard Glenn; and Robert Rolfe, an international business professor who teaches classes in Tanzania, told stories of experiencing hunger around the globe — and here in Columbia. They told stories of sewage flooded streets and small slums packed with millions of starving people, and Rolfe spoke of meeting people in



Africa who don’t have much hope to improve their situation. “Many people work hard — harder than I do — but their ability to reach the next level is limited,” he said. Hackett encouraged participants to work to raise awareness of the issue of poverty. “Hold each other accountable, and



Photos by Erin Burke / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

change the world,” she said. Service sorority Omega Phi Alpha sponsored the event and paired with Heifer International to donate two goats to underdeveloped countries as a source of food, milk and income. —Compiled by Erin Burke, contributing photographer

WEATHER

Wednesday

60° 34°

Thursday

62° 34°

MIX

INSIDE

VIEWPOINTS

Lil Wayne

Weezy said his latest CD, “I Am Not a Human Being II,” released Tuesday, will be his penultimate album.

See page 6

VIEWPOINTS

VIEWPOINTS

Same-sex marriage

Columnist Matt Coleman argues that government should avoid trying to define “marriage” and focus on legality instead.

See page 5

SPORTS

SPORTS

Spring Practice

Freshman defensive end Darius English said he has been inspired by Jadeveon Clowney in the offseason.

See page 10

In Brief.

Palmetto warehouse to cost city \$5.7 million

City Council voted to issue bonds to buy the Palmetto Compress warehouse Tuesday.

The purchase will cost the city \$5.65 million, Mayor Steve Benjamin said, according to Free Times’ Eva Moore, who reported the news via Twitter.

The vote follows a week after City Council voted to buy the historic building, which has been a source of controversy in city politics lately.

First, an Ohio developer wanted to build a student housing complex on the site, but those plans were nixed. Later, the building’s owners said its maintenance had gotten too pricey, so they, too, planned to demolish it.

—Thad Moore, News Editor

Cold snap might mean lost money for farmers

Thought walking to class in the cold this morning was miserable? Try growing strawberries in it.

The owners of Cottle Strawberry Farms have been dealing with the issue all week, and while they don’t expect their berries’ quality to suffer, they do think they’ll make less money this year because they won’t have as much time to pick them, The State reported.

Throw in the wind, and farmers have to work long hours to protect the fields.

The state Department of Agriculture hasn’t gotten any reports of major freeze damages.

“This has been a different winter,” farm owner Joy Cottle told the newspaper. “It’s nail-biting time for all farmers.”

—Thad Moore, News Editor

Number of state employees drops as population grows

Since 2000, the size of state government’s payroll has been dwindling.

The number of state employees has fallen 15 percent over the last 13 years, The State reported. That’s a drop to 66,303 workers in the 2012-13 fiscal year, down from 77,782 in 1999-2000.

Over the same period, South Carolina’s population has grown by 18 percent, and critics are charging the state with making its employees do more work without getting more pay.

In four of the last five years, including this year, most state employees won’t get a raise, according to The State.

—Thad Moore, News Editor

MARRIAGE ● Continued from 1

Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, Straight Alliance was Zac Baker, its former president, who spoke about the university’s accomplishments in supporting gay rights, including its “It Gets Better” video and an upcoming “Queer Prom.”

“We’ve done so much, but we have even more work to do at USC,” Baker said.

The crowd comprised a mixture of race, religion and gender and featured a range of ages, including Kimberly Cockrell, who spoke about why her middle school-age son decided to attend.

“He asked to come because he understood that this is so his Uncle Nick can get married,” Cockrell said. “I didn’t push him; he just adores his godfather.”

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Brian Almond / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Tuesday’s same-sex marriage rally at the Statehouse saw hundreds turn out to hear speakers and storm the building’s steps. They aimed to show support as the Supreme Court considers a pair of laws on the issue.

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CUTS ● Cont. from 1

they do, they might find it “almost impossible” to get that talent back.

USC has focused on interdisciplinary, locally relevant research questions in recent years in an effort stay competitive while grant money grows tight, and it has some money to help researchers pay bills while they wait for their funding to be renewed, Nagarkatti said. The university offers up to \$15,000 per grant per faculty member in so-called “bridge funds.”

“Other than that, we really can’t do much,” Nagarkatti said.

Financial aid

Last week, USC President Harris Pastides went to

Washington to lobby South Carolina’s Congressional delegation.

His focus, he told trustees last week: to keep funding for federal student loans intact.

Students throughout the USC system receive about \$318 million in federal financial aid each year, Beckham said, including work study, Pell grants, loans and Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants.

Some of that money is safe this year.

Pastides told trustees last week that Pell grants are exempt from automatic cuts this year, and students have already received loans for this year.

But work study and SEOG funds could be

cut this year, Beckham said.

According to a White House analysis, about 830 fewer students in South Carolina will get financial aid under sequestration, and 270 would lose their work-study jobs.

Next year, the loan program will be up for cuts, Pastides said, and after this year, Pell grants aren’t safe, so that program could be shrunk, too, according to Beckham.

“That’s ominous for us,” Beckham said.

Just how the financial aid picture will shake out isn’t clear yet, but Beckham said he thought South Carolina’s Congressional delegation held higher education funding as a

priority.

Still, he said, a number of tough questions don’t yet have answers, and the government has a number of competing needs to reconcile as it wrestles with sequestration and a mounting debt.

“There’s still a lot of dust yet to settle,” Beckham said.

DG

 The Daily Gamecock on 

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Panel talks same-sex couples’ legal issues

Inheritance, adoption among common struggles

Hannah Jeffrey
NEWS@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

A few years ago, Ann Willbrand’s partner was diagnosed with cancer. Willbrand, the secretary of the board of South Carolina Equality, had written out questions to ask the doctor and placed them on a clipboard. “We were at a very family-friendly hospital, so everything went very smoothly, and we were both very pleased about that,” Willbrand said. “A few weeks later, we were at the hospital, and the [doctor] recognized us, but not because we were a lesbian couple. He said, ‘You’re the lady with the clipboard!’” Willbrand’s anecdote shared a positive resolution between state

law and a same-sex couple with an audience at the School of Law Auditorium Tuesday. But not all stories end that way. Sarah Cassidy, a 2012 USC Law School graduate, took the stage next to inform about will and estate planning. “If you do not plan and make decisions for yourself, the state will make them for you,” read one of Cassidy’s slides, referring to estate planning documents. Cassidy explained that in South Carolina, if you die without a will, there are many routes that your estate could take. Because same-sex marriages are not legally recognized in South Carolina, oftentimes, those partnerships are overlooked when it comes to the estate’s distribution. Cassidy then gave an example to put the importance of estate planning into perspective: If two

same-sex partners were living in South Carolina and one was hit by a bus and killed, her partner wouldn’t be entitled to anything in the estate even though they were in a committed relationship, because their relationship is not recognized by the state. The estate would then go to her parents — half to each one. Cassidy summed the necessity of estate planning in three words: think, identify and encourage. One must think about the importance of estate planning, identify necessary documents and encourage everything to go according to his or her wishes, she said. The legal challenges facing same-sex couples aren’t limited to their estates, either. Allison Bullard, a 2011 graduate of the School of Law, offered information on adoption, assisted reproductive technology, living together and partnership agreements.

Bullard posed a question: Can same-sex couples adopt in South Carolina? The answer: Yes, technically. But in reality, she said, it depends on the judge, the lawyers and the information presented. “I’ve found that judges in South Carolina want to do it, and they’re looking for a reason to do it,” Bullard said. Above all, Bullard emphasized the importance of finding lawyers who are experienced in these fields so that they don’t make mistakes that could have an effect on the family later on. South Carolina Equality Executive Director Ryan Wilson closed out the night, which began with a rally at the Statehouse, with a positive outlook for the future of same-sex marriages. “I’m hopeful, I’m optimistic and hopefully, the time will come sooner rather than later,” he said.

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Sequestration of USC, education unacceptable

For months and months, we’ve speculated and complained about the implications of sequestration on our nation. But as we’ve wrapped ourselves up in macro political theories, we’ve overlooked the most immediate effect of sequestration, one that has taken a huge blow on our own university.

When sequestration kicked in around a month ago, USC lost a whopping 8.4 percent in federal funds. This cut in federal funding means that USC has \$12 million less to give out for research, which means both students and professors will now have a harder time obtaining grants and fellowships. While we don’t know exactly what will happen to financial aid yet, scholarships, work study opportunities and other aid for students are all on the chopping block.

We know that USC is not at fault for any of this, and now that sequestration’s effects have settled in, there’s no point in playing the blame game. However, what we can do now is to try to ameliorate those effects and ensure that we lose a little as possible.

So while USC flounders to make ends meet, we urge our representatives in Congress to remember the importance of higher education. Cutting funding means that aspiring students will not go to college. It means that we cannot invest in research and development. It means that we cannot better educate our population, which consequently means that we, as an already-suffering state, cannot progress. We want our representatives to know that ultimately, sequestration doesn’t just affect the university as a whole. It affects us as individuals.

As deliberation continues in Washington, we hope that our representatives keep this in mind. Some things can be sacrificed when times are tough, but education is not one of them.



‘Marriage’ not term for state to define

Legality, not acceptability, premise of civil union

The United States Supreme Court is currently hearing arguments on whether restrictions on same-sex marriage are unconstitutional. While I’m inclined to support marriage equality, there are some important logical issues that need addressing.

Opponents of same-sex marriage claim that recognizing same-sex relationships will set our society on a slippery slope towards pedophilia and polygamy. While the pedophilia claim is easily countered — changing the definition of marriage doesn’t change the definition of adulthood — the polygamy claim is more challenging.

The basic premise of the marriage equality movement is that preventing adults in love from marrying is a denial of their rights. They are against the idea that a relationship can be viewed as inferior because of the genders of the people involved. This is a perfectly reasonable argument. What I fail to understand is why same-sex marriage proponents are so offended when one claims this line of thinking could lead to the recognition of polygamy. The anger suggests they view relationships with more than two partners as inferior to relationships with only two people. If it’s unfair to discriminate based on gender, should it not also be wrong to discriminate based on number?

If proponents of marriage equality insist on rejecting the “polygamy

as the logical next step” argument, the only way around it would be to change the basic argument. Instead of claiming that restrictions on same-sex marriage are a denial of one’s rights, they would have to claim that the law should evolve as the society does. As society has started to recognize same-sex marriage, so should the state. Under this line of thinking, restricting same-sex marriage only became discrimination when a large portion of society began supporting marriage equality. This change in argument undermines same-sex marriage supporters’ moral high ground.

Only one argument avoids these contradictions: The state doesn’t need to define marriage. The primary argument of same-sex marriage opponents has been that the state should define marriage as a heterosexual relationship because it has an interest in promoting procreation. This is a weak argument. Justice Elena Kagan had the best response when she asked if this meant sterile heterosexual couples should also be barred from marrying. In the end, the government’s role should be to provide civil unions as a legal framework for property sharing between adults regardless of whether they are intimate.

Marriage is a very personal title. Regardless of what a government or court says, if your neighbor doesn’t think you’re married, he’ll never recognize your relationship. The marriage equality campaign should focus on getting the government out of marriage, rather than trying to change the definition while excluding the rights of groups with different views of marriage because they aren’t yet “socially acceptable.”

‘Slacktivism’ not as useless as cynics claim

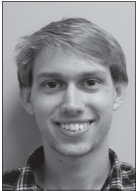
Media designed to raise awareness, spread ideas

Yesterday, the Supreme Court began hearing arguments on one of the most heated discussions in our time, and consequently, social media was aflame with the debate of same-sex rights. Beneath this internet frenzy, a second debate resurfaced: the battle between the cynics and the slacktivists.

A “slacktivist” is defined as someone who takes a feel-good stance in regard to a political or social issue, but takes very few practical measures. In the day and age of social media, this translates to posting a status, reblogging a picture or retweeting a topic without actually participating in active protests, awareness demonstrations or other significant commitments of time and money. Many dissenters view it as disingenuous, accusing people of merely “jumping on the bandwagon” or appearing to care for their own social gains rather than actually caring about the issue. If they actually cared, the argument goes, they would be out in streets taking action.

These dissenters are in full swing as many supporters of same-sex rights have begun switching their Facebook pictures to a pink “equals sign” on a red background. In a mocking Facebook status, one cynic says, “This just in: People changing their profile picture has convinced the Supreme Court to legalize gay marriage.”

While they have a point, they are forgetting a few things: Social media was designed for people to speak their minds, and often, that’s the only thing we can do. For many issues, awareness of any kind is helpful, and when the issue is out of the hands of the populace, as it is now, expression becomes paramount.



Ryan Celley
Fourth-year economics student

Austerity measures harm debt-laden countries

Tax increases, spending cuts dictated by EU, IMF exacerbate situation

This week has seen yet another eurozone economy on the brink of default and serious financial collapse. Eyes around the world have turned to Cyprus, the small island nation just south of Turkey. The country just secured a deal with the European Union (EU) to receive 10 billion euros as an emergency loan to keep the country’s banks from defaulting. Cyprus is just one of multiple eurozone economies who have required large bailouts from the EU and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) just to stay solvent. Along with these bailouts have come stringent austerity measures that cut spending to the bare bones in order to reign in government costs. But that strategy is doing more to hurt the fragile economies than it is to help.

Basic economics tells us that you shouldn’t spend more money than you take in. And that has been

the problem with multiple eurozone economies like Greece, whose debt has risen to an estimated 188 percent of its GDP this year, despite multiple EU bailouts. But research shows that some of the strict austerity measures demanded by the EU have actually accelerated the rise in debt. While spending cuts are important, they have to be balanced and evenhanded.

The IMF released the Global World Outlook near the end of 2012, and in that report, the organization’s chief of economics concluded that serious austerity measures have had a more detrimental effect than economists predicted. The problem lies within the fiscal multiplier, which measures the effects of changed spending habits on an economy. In cases of serious austerity measures, economists have undervalued the fiscal multiplier, which means the spending cuts, in reality, do more damage than expected. That was, and still is,

likely a contributing factor in the Greek economy’s worsening free fall. The Greek government has long had a problem collecting sufficient revenue through taxation, so tax increases were clearly in order. But Greece also proposed 28 billion euros in spending cuts, and that is where its government went wrong. Greece may have needed to cut spending some, but a cut of this magnitude, in conjunction with tax increases, was enough to stunt the growth of the economy.

Cyprus will not likely have to face any austerity measures because their crisis is mostly restricted to banks, which suffered heavy losses from their investments in Greece. But it is inevitable that another eurozone economy will need saving again, and it is imperative that the European Union handles it in a way that will produce growth instead of hamstringing a nation’s economy for years, as with Greece. Every case is different, but it is clear that spending cuts with tax increases kill growth, and the sooner the EU figures that out the better.



Steven Moore
Fourth-year political science student

IT’S YOUR RIGHT

The goal of The Daily Gamecock’s Viewpoints page is to stimulate discussion in the University of South Carolina community. All published authors are expected to provide logical arguments to back their views.

The Daily Gamecock encourages readers to voice opinions and offers three methods of expression: letters to the editor, guest columns and feedback on dailygamecock.com.

Letters and guest columns should be submitted via email to editor@dailygamecock.com. Letters must be 200 to 300 words in length and include the author’s name, year in

school and area of study.

We also invite student leaders and USC faculty members to submit guest columns. Columnists should keep submissions to about 500 words in length and include the author’s name and position.

The editor reserves the right to edit and condense submissions for length and clarity, or not publish at all.

All submissions become the property of The Daily Gamecock and must conform to the legal standards of USC Student Media.

About The Daily Gamecock

The Daily Gamecock is the editorially independent student newspaper of the University of South Carolina. It is published daily during the fall and spring semesters and nine times during the summer with the exception of university holidays and exam periods. Opinions expressed in The Daily Gamecock are those of editors or author and not those of the University of South Carolina. The Board of Student Publications and Communications is the publisher of The Daily Gamecock. The Department of Student Media is the newspaper’s parent organization. The Daily Gamecock is supported in part by student activity fees. One free copy per reader. Additional copies may be purchased for \$1 each from the Department of Student Media.

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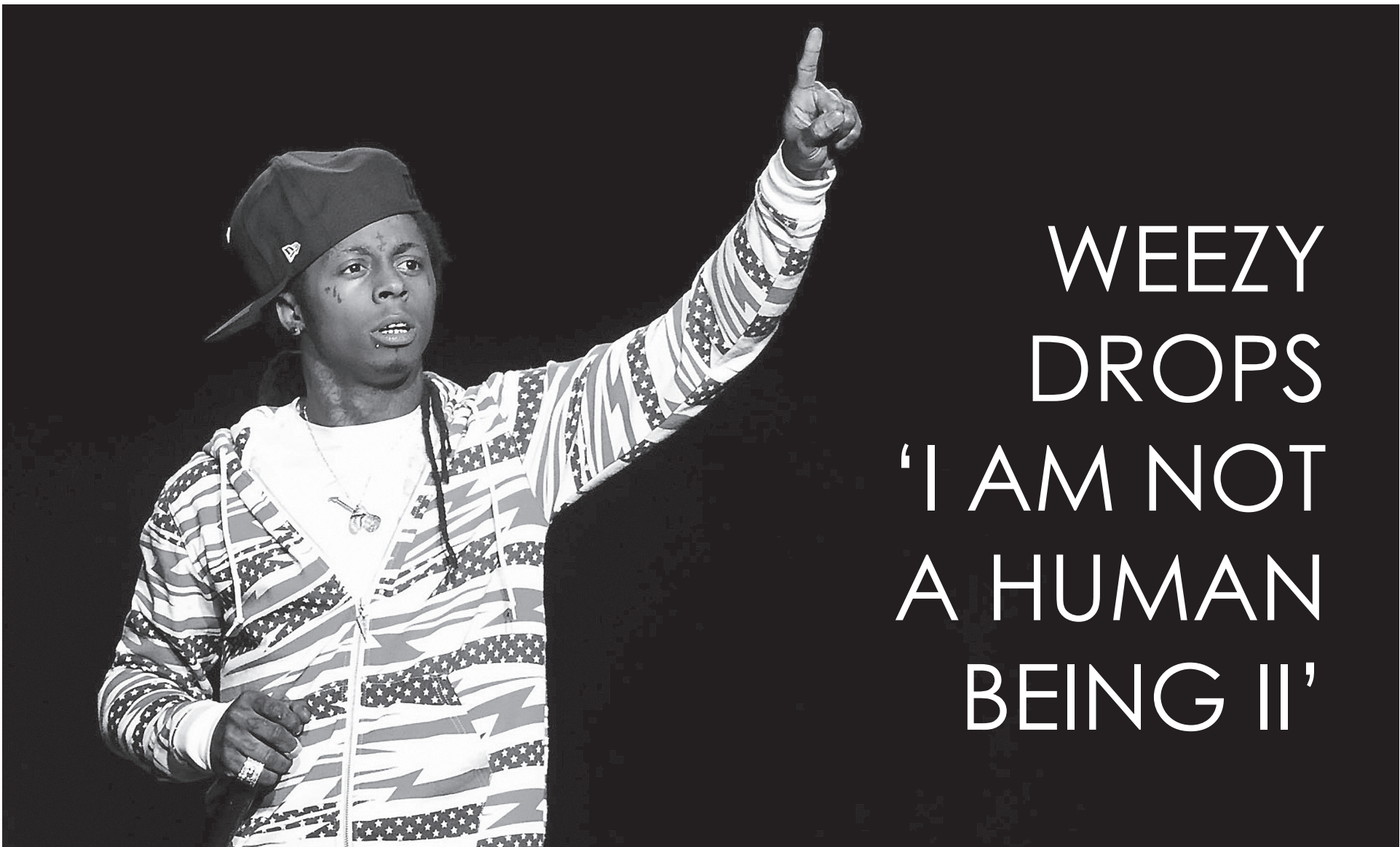
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Courtesy of MCT Campus

Lil Wayne released his 10th full-length album, “I Am Not A Human Being II,” Tuesday. The artist, known for singles like “Hustler Musik,” said this will be the second to last CD of his career.

Lil Wayne celebrates rebirth on latest album

Chloe Gould
CGOULD@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

His dreadlocks fall just below the top of his low-hanging skinny jeans, looped with keys and handkerchiefs. Black sunglasses block tattooed tear drops and his rare wide smile flashes teeth encrusted in platinum, silver and diamonds.

He stands just 5 feet, 6 inches tall, but his words pack a punch — each verse, laced with sex and drugs, flows into a hard rap single that makes the mainstream top charts.

Lil Wayne, still recovering from a 6-day hospital stay earlier this month, released his tenth studio album, “I Am Not A Human Being II,” Tuesday. A follow up to 2010’s part one, the album is being called the most profane of the bunch, an impressive feat for the artist who’s given us tracks like “Hustler Musik” and “Lollipop.”

The man, the myth, perhaps the legend that is Weezy F. Baby fell from his superhuman status just two weeks ago, and all of social media held its breath. It was reported that the rapper suffered multiple seizures, and the most extreme

rumors pronounced Wayne dead.

That’s when he cleared it all up for his chattering, grief-stricken fans. In a single tweet, he wrote: “I’m good everybody. Thx for the prayers and love.”

We’re still not sure what caused the seizures, or where Wayne’s health stands, but there is one recipe that’s been recurring in reports: sizzurp, or fruit drink, hard candy and codeine. It’s said to be a favorite of Mr. Tunechi.

His latest album, which Weezy has said is the second to last of his career,

is like a rebirth. After its release date was pushed back a month, the album dropped with a simple, but telling cover designed by DONDA, Kanye West’s creative company.

It’s all black with a blood red butterfly, an ode to the “Fireman’s” ever-growing musical track. In Rolling Stone Magazine, Wayne’s manager Cortez Bryant said, “Moths always transform into butterflies.” As Complex Music pointed out, they don’t, but the message isn’t lost.

The world has watched Wayne rise to rap icon status. His singles

go viral before they even hit the air. But as his career has grown and he’s inched his music under a more censored, metaphorical veil, he’s changed.

“I Am Not A Human Being II” brings it back to the underground — the rougher, less staged brand of hip-hop with Wayne’s unmistakable vocals. There aren’t the same hooks and rhythm and blues influences that have softened songs like “How to Love” for the commercial world, but instead completely raw, unaffected throws from the out-of-this-world, self-proclaimed alien artist.

The album starts you just where you would expect: the lighting of a bong. He takes a deep breath in, exhales and piano keys feverishly play the interlude to “IANAHB,” the record’s acronym. In the almost 6-minute song, there’s no memorable chorus.

Like most Weezy songs, you catch a stray word, sometimes a whole verse, that brings you back into the absolute lunacy of it all. In this one, you hear “Medicine / I treat it like peppermints,” “Jose Canseco” and “tampons in manure.” There’s no common thread, just a lot of what’s made Weezy Weezy with an



Courtesy of allhiphop.com

WEEZY ● 8

‘Olympus’ uses patriotism to support plot

Action flick plays on American fears to unite audience in gruesome, political storyline

Chloe Gould
CGOULD@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

“Olympus Has Fallen”
NOW IN THEATERS

★★★★☆

Director: Antoine Fuqua
Starring: Gerard Butler, Aaron Eckhart, Morgan Freeman
Rating: R for strong violence and language

A combat plane swoops across the National Mall, clips the side of the Washington Monument and lands in front of the White House. It’s a national nightmare that’s all-too rattling in a post-9/11 world.

“Olympus Has Fallen,” an all-American action flick, centers around a North Korean takeover of the nation’s capital. It packs a horribly gruesome and pretty predictable plot with an overwhelming call to patriotism, which makes the whole movie work.

Mike Banning (played by Gerard Butler), is ex-Secret Service and a disgraced member of President Benjamin Asher’s (Aaron Eckhart) security detail.

In the start of the film, he’s at Camp David with the president and the first family. He boxes with Asher, throwing right hooks and inside jabs. He falls right into the heart of the family — he’s more than just security, he’s woven into the family fabric. He offers earring advice to Asher’s wife, Margaret (Ashley Judd), and the president’s son,

Connor (Finley Jacobsen), begs to ride in the car with Banning instead of mom and dad.

The heart of the film, away from the action, is cemented early on. The presidential family is on their way to a diamond-decorated Christmas party during a blizzard. The president and his wife are in one town car, while Connor is in a separate car with Banning. The wheels spin out on an ice-covered bridge and the president’s car hangs

over the rail, looking down at an ice-covered river.

It’s a hurried scene, but in short, Banning gets the president out of the car before it plummets to the water with the first lady still strapped in the back seat. Asher is left sitting on the icy street, head in hands, with Connor wailing in the background.

OLYMPUS ● 7



Courtesy of MCT Campus

Aaron Eckhart (right) stars as President Benjamin Asher, who’s held hostage in his bunker by North Koreans.

OLYMPUS ● Cont. from 6

The movie is then set 18 months later, post-accident. Banning is working a desk job at the Department of Treasury — he’s been taken off the president’s detail, and left a kind-of renegade mockery in the security circle.

Butler is perfect for the role, rugged with biting sarcasm that commands the right attention. He’s the guy you feel bad for, without any of the traditional, emotion-inspiring characteristics. You know he cares, and cares a lot, and that’s all you need.

It’s his time in “300” meets “P.S. I Love You,” if that could ever even happen.

The action comes with a North Korean invasion, so far-fetched with the country’s previous battle star track record that there’s some comfort in the unrealistic, gruesome overtake of the White House.

In just 13 minutes, the president’s security team is wiped out and Asher, the secretary of defense (Melissa Leo)

and the vice president (Phil Austin) are being held hostage in the president’s bunker.

Eckhart doesn’t add much but a strong jawline to the film, with his character’s only real addition to the story standing in his celebrity. Leo, however, is beyond excellent in a relatively minor roll. She’s tortured, lying face-down on the

bunker floor, spitting up blood as she fights with a sassy brand of patriotism.

As the cameras pan over a silverscreen Washington, D.C. the landscape is all kinds of inaccurate. The buildings are magically

squished together, creating a triangle of key city buildings in a 500-foot space.

The story pans out expectantly — a movie chronicling the innerworkings of the country’s national security can’t get more

disappointing than a 13-minute slaughter of the White House staff. But, the thrill of the action and the kind of inspired American pride leaves viewers with plenty of feel-good patriotism.

DG



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WEEZY ● Cont. from 6

uncharacteristic piano weaving it all together. In the end, there's an echo: "Hello, world / As I always say, I am not a human being / 2." Wayne's packed the track list with collaborations, with all but four of the 15 songs using a second voice. If not one of the best, one of the most entertaining, is "Days

and Days" featuring 2 Chainz, our friend who's brought us "Birthday Song" and "I'm Different" from his debut release "Based on a T.R.U. Story." It starts with a clip of the chorus from "Another Woman" by Moby. The lyrics are graphic, obviously, so I can really only publish one of Weezy's pieces of poetic genius: "I milk this s--- like cattle

/ That's my word like Scrabble." Boom. That's not the best part, though. Really, you can just fast forward to 1:11 where you get one great rally cry: "TWOOOO CHAINZZZZ." "2 Chainz / my first chain had a twin," the rapper explains in the song. Also, "Last name F--- / first name I Don't Give A." The "Birthday Song" artist also makes an encore on track nine, "Rich as F---." One of "I Am Not a Human Being 2's" first three singles is "No Worries," featuring Detail. In the music video, listeners step inside Wayne's psychedelic casino. He's wearing a safari hat and some industrial-

strength goggles, as the screen turns into a drunk goggles lens with some rave-worthy neon action. The whole song is really as big of a mess as the video — where's 2 Chainz? "Trigger Finger," with the illustrious Soulja Boy, harkens back to that sizzurp: "Ain't nothin' sweet but

the codeine / Eyes hella red like chlorine." At least he's honest, right? The final song takes a trip to somewhere between Wayne's alien galaxy and an intense game of Pac Man. A video game/spacehip beat runs behind constant shattering glass and the loading of a gun.

Nicki Minaj lays down the end of the song, representing Wayne's "Young Money" dynasty with a simple ode to her success. "I sit and count this money while I watch you b----- audition," she says.

DG



Courtesy of MCT Campus

Lil Wayne partnered with rapper 2 Chainz for the track "Days and Days" on his new album "I Am Not a Human Being II," released Tuesday on Young Money Records.



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HOROSCOPES

Aries

Some things are still out of reach. Focus on completing as much of the mundane work as possible now so that you can concentrate on more difficult tasks later.

Taurus

Stick with trusted routines, and do what you know works. Handle basics: chop wood and carry water. Postpone romance for now, and focus on productivity. Don't go out shopping either.

Gemini

An obstacle may get in the way. Use your creative powers to turn a detour into a new opportunity. You're being tested on your patience, anyway. It's not about the score.

Cancer

A female introduces new ideas. Peaceful interludes rejuvenate and ripple out. Being gentle increases your self-esteem, and more gets accomplished through flexibility than through pressure.

Leo

Don't be afraid to ask for help, even if you feel like you don't need anybody. There's plenty to learn and improve upon, and it's better together. It's more fun, and you're done earlier.

Virgo

Figure out a solution to a conflict of interests. Do it carefully so you won't have to do it over. New opportunities come from your willingness to contribute and help others. It's also satisfying.

Libra

New breakdowns could arise from previous ones. This is what it looks like when you're really playing. Continue with your productivity streak, and do what there is to do.

Scorpio

You'll discover something that you didn't notice before regarding your time management this week. Keeping close contact with your calendar and structures is vital.

Sagittarius

Take care of your relationships, and don't lose your temper. You don't want to burn any bridges that you may want to cross later. Meditation helps, as does comedy. Add a sense of humor.

Capricorn

Avoid a serious argument; it's not worth it right now. You have more interesting things to worry about. Focus on your personal progress, especially around career.

Aquarius

Answer the call of the wild; you're ready for anything. Work out the glitches in a relationship. Listen to all points of view. Self-esteem increases as you iron out the wrinkles.

Pisces

The budget is tight and will require some creative thinking. Step back to recall what worked before, and put that information to good use. Get feedback and participation from others.

THE SCENE

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Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams 03/27/13
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ACROSS

- Revisiting the past?
- __ shot
- "Been there"
- Country with a green, yellow and red flag
- Israelites, to many
- Hone
- The sport of shooting, in Soissons
- Took in
- Finn's friend
- Sarah McLachlan's record label
- Chinese port also known as
- Xiamen
- 2012 games host country, in Olympics code
- Come to
- Like some boxers
- "Who __ we kidding?"
- Personification
- Tales you can also read backwards?
- Fakes
- "To reiterate ..."
- Notable Nixon gesture
- Jenny Fields's son, in a 1978 best-seller
- Luv
- Talked up
- Certain dieter's concern
- Go (for)
- Objects
- Glassy-eyed one
- Brand named for two states
- __ favor
- Whitman of "Arrested Development"
- Essex neighbor
- Female pop trio since 1979
- Go back, in a way
- Only place on Earth where crocodiles and alligators co-exist
- Lowly worker
- Pans, and how

DOWN

- Popular mint
- Mariner from Japan
- "The Piano" extras
- USNA grad
- Pay for
- Airport offering
- Succulent genus
- Cargo carrier
- Summer abroad
- Good thing to learn
- Duck in the Eurasian taiga
- Singer known for unconventional outfits
- Basic math course
- Second-least populous st. capital
- Bridge response
- Immortal college coach
- Santa __
- Illusion
- Ready to father
- Let it all out
- Shepherd protect-
- ing org.

Solutions from 03/26/13

J	A	S	O	N		G	A	Z	A		L	O	N	G
A	G	I	L	E		O	U	I	S		O	H	I	O
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36 KOA amenity
37 Petroleum processing byproduct
38 Pioneer in sides-crolling video games
40 Tearjerkers of a kind
43 61-Down crossers: Abbr.
46 How some stunts are done
48 Fighting force
49 Hole widener
50 One may come

with wings
54 Refrain from singing?
56 "Bring __!"
57 Tudor widow
61 See 43-Down
62 Gp. for teachers
63 Emulate Sir Mix-A-Lot

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		9			5	7	
		2					6
				6	7		5
9							2
			9	3			
8						4	
	2	7	5			6	
6				9	3		

Level 1 2 3 4

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Complete the grid so each row, column AND 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9.

Solution for 03/26/13

9	8	1	2	3	6	5	4	7
6	5	4	8	1	7	3	9	2
7	2	3	4	9	5	8	6	1
5	7	2	6	4	3	9	1	8
3	1	6	9	5	8	7	2	4
8	4	9	1	7	2	6	5	3
2	9	5	3	8	1	4	7	6
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Andrew Askins / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Freshman defensive end Darius English (8) says that Clowney has inspired him to have the mindset of 'coming out and just knowing that you can beat that guy in front of you.'

Young players learning from Clowney

2-sport athlete Bruce Ellington practices for first time this spring

Danny Garrison
DGARRISON@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

During the offseason, junior defensive end Jadeveon Clowney has become a YouTube sensation and graced a magazine cover, but with spring practice underway, the most prevalent topic lately has been Clowney's Heisman chances for the 2013 season.

After Tuesday's spring practice, the All-American talked about what would need to happen for him to take the highest individual honor in college football as a defensive player.

"I think I need to just make a lot of key plays in big games," Clowney said. "I think that'd leave a bit of leeway."

Despite the award's designation as the prize for the best individual player in the nation, it has been a predominantly offensive honor. No purely defensive player has won the award in its history and the last winner to play defense at all came in 1997 when Charles Woodson won the award.

Clowney emphatically denied any rumors that he would dabble in offense this fall, saying that he has "no interest at all" in playing offense — effectively making his Heisman campaign for 2013 an uphill climb.

"That's what the people like, touchdowns and more touchdowns," Clowney said. "They don't worry about the sacks and stuff."

Clowney finished sixth in last season's Heisman voting and received four first-place votes in the process.

Amid all the individual attention Clowney has been receiving, younger players said he has embraced his role as a mentor to some of his younger counterparts on the defensive line. Freshman defensive end Darius English, who will look to increase his playing time in the fall after recording three tackles in 2012, has been one of the beneficiaries of Clowney's guidance.

"Just the mindset of coming out and just knowing that you can beat that guy in front of you," English said. "That's the biggest thing that I really picked up from (Clowney)."

Aside from the mental aspect of the game, English has begun to prepare for next season physically, too. He's on a strict eating and lifting regimen to gain weight so he can compete with the massive offensive tackles he will face in the SEC.

As he enters his third year with the Gamecock football program, Clowney said he is using this spring to help young players like English develop and learn in hopes of better success this fall and in the future, after he leaves.

"I help them out and tell them what to do," Clowney said. "To help the defensive line out,

whoever's behind me I'll just tell them what they're supposed to do on certain plays."

A number of former Gamecocks such as Alshon Jeffery and Stephon Gilmore came to Tuesday's practice to check out this year's team.

In addition, junior wide receiver Bruce Ellington hit the practice field for the first time on Tuesday after spending the offseason manning the point guard position for coach Frank Martin's basketball team. He is coming off a season in which he led the team in receiving yards, and Ellington will occupy an even more prominent role in South Carolina's offense after the departure of junior wideout Ace Sanders for the NFL.

Sanders, along with 17 other Gamecock professional prospects, will go under the microscope on Wednesday as they take part in the annual Pro Timing Day, where they will have the opportunity to show off their abilities to NFL coaches and scouts that will be on hand. Cincinnati Bengals coach Marvin Lewis attended Tuesday's practice in order to get an advance look at some of South Carolina's potential draft prospects as they went through drills.

Wednesday's Pro Timing Day will take place at Williams-Brice Stadium, and the on-field portion that begins at 11 a.m. will be free to the public.

DG

Softball gets win at No. 12 LSU

USC picks up first conference victory of season against Tigers

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South Carolina recorded its most impressive win of the season Sunday at No. 12 LSU, giving the team their first SEC victory of the season.

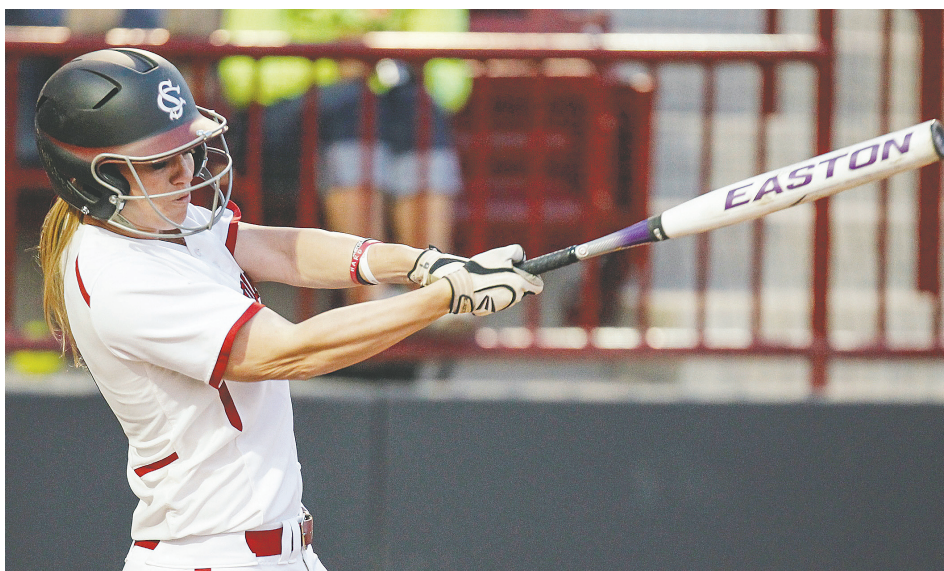
Sophomore outfielder Kristen Struett grabbed the spotlight with two RBI singles and one double to help secure the win. She credits her teammates for making the proper adjustments from the previous two games.

"It was just a big step, I think, for the whole team. Obviously it was a great personal accomplishment for me, but I was just proud that I made the adjustments from the previous two games of the series and so did the rest of the team," Struett said.

Coach Beverly Smith was also proud of the team's adjustments.

"We dropped the first two games, and I thought that they made really great adjustments going into game three and fought for seven innings," Smith said. "So I'm really excited for the team because we battled really tough against Alabama and didn't get the win — so they were definitely rewarded for their efforts on Sunday."

Smith said that Struett's preparation helped the team as well. "Struett does a super job making adjustments and is just really tough



Courtesy of USC Athletic Media Relations

Sophomore outfielder Kristen Struett had two RBI singles and a double against the Tigers.

to get out 3 times," Smith said. "She's very knowledgeable about the game, but she takes a lot of information away from her at-bats, so she definitely goes in ready to make an adjustment."

In preparation for last Sunday, Struett said the Gamecocks had made several goals to keep themselves on the right track.

"We made it a goal in batting practice to not hit a single ball out of the ballpark," Smith said. "We wanted to make sure we hit line drives and to get the ball out of the ground because that was our main goal — and to get on base."

With each victory, Smith encourages the players to continue to do their very best as well as to

challenge them to think ahead of the game and stay focused.

"One of the things that I said to them after the game was that I wanted them to remember what this felt like, because when we're playing our brand of softball, we can play and beat anybody in the country," Smith said. "And I wanted them to remember that."

The Gamecocks will take on Missouri this weekend, and Struett said she hopes they can continue improving.

"We can't settle for winning one game of a series," Struett said. "We need to make sure we push to win a series, get a sweep and believe that we can beat any team that we face."

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Gamecocks snap 3-game losing streak

After losing his spot in the weekend rotation, Colby Holmes rebounded on Tuesday night to help South Carolina snap a three-game losing streak. Coming off of a sweep at home to Arkansas where the pitching staff allowed 24 runs in three games, Holmes pitched 7.1 effective innings. He allowed just one run on four hits while striking out a season-high eight batters to lead USC to a 3-1 victory over the College of Charleston.

The Gamecocks got off to a hot start, scoring two runs in the top of the first inning. Senior first baseman LB Dantzer hit a RBI double that scored Chase Vergason to give USC a 1-0 lead. Sophomore catcher Grayson Greiner made it 2-0 on a RBI groundout. That would be a wide enough margin, as senior pitcher Adam Westmoreland closed out the game with his second save of the season.

The team will look to continue its success in a Thursday night home contest with SEC foe Texas A&M that will be televised on ESPNU. First pitch is set for 7 p.m.

— Compiled by Kyle Heck,
Assistant Sports Editor